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LETTER AND PROCLAMATION OF ARGALL.

[From Randolph MSS. in MSS. Collections of Virginia
Historical Society.]

A LETTER FROM SAMUEL ARGALL ESQUIRE, ADMIRAL AND GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA DATED JAMESTOWN THE 9TH OF JUNE, 1617.

That he lost sight of the Lizard the 11th of April 1617; came north course and anchored the 15th of May before point Comfort; found the people well, tilling ground for corn and Tobacco. Two or three days after, arrived Captain Martin after five weeks passage in his Pinnace. Then he went to James Town and found all boats &c. out of repair; sent Captain Martin's Pinnace to the North to fetch the boats the Fishing Company gave him; desires one hundred men with tools &c. that he will provide with victuals; likes James Town better than Bermuda^s forty miles above it; will strengthen it. Great plenty and peace; that he sent Tomakin to tell Oppachancano of his arrival and he came to James Town, received a present with great Joy. Tomakin rails against England, English people and particularly his best friend, Sir Thomas Dale; all his Reports are disproved before Oppechancano and his great men (to the great Satisfaction of the great men). Tomakin the Disgraced (Powhatan is gone to the King of Moy-umps in Patowamack River and has left the Government of his kingdom to Oppechancano, and his other brother). Thinks Hemp and Flax will grow well here especially Flax; little tryal yet of pocoon, but will proceed in it; Had instructions to plant Anniseed but brought none; pray send some; silk worms thrive exceedingly; Excellent wheat and Barley; Cattle thrive. Ground worn out with maze will bring English Grain; want ministers. Mr. Whitaker being drowned desires another Governor to be sent; in the mean time will use his best Endeavours on which he prays they'll put the best constructions; desires Sir Dudley Diggs may sollicit Archbishop to give Mr.

Wickam power to administer Sacrament here, being no other Parson.

PROCLAMATION BY THE ADMIRAL &C.

To all to whom these present shall come, I, Samuel Argall Esquire, Admiral, and for the time, present Governor, principal of Virginia send Greeting in our Lord God Everlasting, in all places of Wars and Garrison Towns, it is most Expedient and necessary to have an honest and Carefull Provost Marshal to whose charge and safe custody all Delinquents and Prisoners of what nature and Quality soever their offences be, are to be committed; now know ye that for the Honesty sufficiency and carefullness in the Execution and Discharge of the said office, which I conceive of William Cradock, I do by these presents nominate, Constitute, ordain and appoint the said William Cradock to be Provost Marshal of the Bermuda City and of all the Hundred thereto belonging, giving and granting unto the said William Cradock all power and authority to execute all such offices, duties and commands belonging to the said place of Provost Marshall, with all Privileges, Rights and Preheminences thereunto belonging, and in all cases which Require his speedy execution of his said office by virtue of these presents shall require all Captains, officers, soldiers or any other member of this Colony to be aiding and assisting to him to appease all mutinies, Factions and Rebellions and all other Discords, contrary the quiet and Peaceable Government of the Commonwealth as they will answer the Contrary at their further Perils. Given at Bermuda City this 20th of Febuary in fifteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England &c. and of Scotland the fifty first and the eleventh year of the Plantation Anno Domini 1617.

Extract and Record as per John Rolf Secretary and Recorder at General.

Copia Test:

R. HICKMAN.